

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15-17, 19 and 20 are amended and claim 18 is canceled. The amendments to claims 1 and 15-17 address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and the prior art rejections, as discussed below.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 15-17 can be found in the original specification. Specifically, support for defining the other substituents as substituents that include in their structure functional groups from among epoxy ring, vinyl group, amino group and mercapto group finds support in the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 of the original specification. Support for defining the other substituents as substituents that include in their structure functional groups including methyl group finds support in example compounds 7 and 9 on page 20.

I. **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and Objection to Specification**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and the specification was objected to, as allegedly failing to fully describe the silane compound, e.g., the silane compound when any of the four X substituents are other than alkoxy group. The rejection and objection are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the claim language, claims 1 and 15-17 have been amended to clearly recite that the silane compound has the specified formula, and wherein if one or more of the substituents X¹ through X⁴ is a substituent other than alkoxy group, such substituent other than alkoxy group is a substituent that includes in its structure a functional group selected from the group consisting of epoxy ring, vinyl group, amino group, mercapto group and methyl group. Thus, the amended claims now clearly define the substituents present in the silane compound when one or more of the substituents are not alkoxy group.

Further, the definition of the substituents of the silane compound are fully and clearly explained in the specification such that one of ordinary skill in the art could readily practice the invention without undue experimentation. In particular, it is explained at page 20, lines 18-20 that in the silane compound, all four substituents may be alkoxy groups. At page 5, lines 14-15, it is explained that at least one of the substituents must be an alkoxy group. Then it is described at the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 that when the silane compound contains from one to three substituents that are alkoxy groups, the remaining substituents are substituents that include functional groups of epoxy ring, vinyl group, amino group, mercapto group and methyl group (see also Table 1). Several specific examples of suitable silane compounds are provided in Table 1.

In view of the detailed description of the silane compounds and substituents thereof in the specification, including the several examples of silane compounds set forth therein, Applicant submits that the specification clearly describes the silane compound in sufficient detail such that one of ordinary skill in the art could practice the invention without experimentation, and particularly without undue experimentation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph are respectfully requested.

For all the same reasons, Applicant submits that the specification clearly adequately describes the silane compounds recited in the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are also respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Based Upon the Art

The Office Action included the following art rejections:

(1) claims 1-3, 5 and 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) relying upon U.S. Patent No. 5,492,968 (Nakai et al.);

(2) claims 1-4, 6 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) relying upon U.S. Patent No. 6,274,671 (Kageishi et al.); and

(3) claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) relying upon Kageishi et al.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 18 was not rejected based upon any art, and in fact was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18 therein, i.e., to recite that the metal chelate is microcapsulated.

Claims 1 and 15, as well as claims 16 and 17, have also been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 15-17 are now all in condition for allowance.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17, 19 and 20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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